

REMARKS

Claims 87-98 are presented for consideration, with Claims 87, 92, 93 and 98 being independent.

The independent claims have been amended to more clearly recite Applicants' invention and further distinguish it from the cited art.

The amendments to the claims were not presented earlier as it was believed that the previously presented claims would be found allowable. This Amendment does not add any additional claims. Moreover, the Examiner's familiarity with the subject matter of the present application will allow an appreciation of the significance of the amendments herein without undue expenditure of time and effort. Finally, the Amendment does not raise new issues requiring further consideration or search. Accordingly, it is submitted that entry of the Amendment is appropriate.

Claims 87-89, 92-95 and 98 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Bonomi '191. In addition, Claims 90, 91, 96 and 97 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over Bonomi in view of Nguyen '437. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 87 of Applicants' invention relates to an image processing method comprised of an input step of inputting moving image data encoded in a first encoding method using both intra-picture coding and inter-picture coding, a first decoding step of decoding the moving image data including intra-picture coding image data and inter-picture coding image data, and a first encoding step of performing the intra-picture coding to the moving image data decoded in the first decoding step and storing the encoded data in a recording medium. Additional steps include reading the moving image data encoded in the first encoding step from

the recording medium and decoding the read data, performing an editing process to at least one picture of the moving image data decoded in the second decoding step, performing the intra-picture coding to the moving image data subjected to the editing process and storing the encoded data in the recording medium, and reading the moving image data encoded in the second encoding step from the recording medium, converting the read data in the first encoding method, and outputting the converted data.

Claim 92 relates to an image processing apparatus which executes an image processing method comprising the steps in Claim 87.

In Claim 93, an image processing method includes an input step, a first decoding step, a first encoding step, a second decoding step, an editing step and a second encoding step as set forth in Claim 87. Additionally, a third decoding step reads the moving image data encoded in the second encoding step and decodes the read data, and a third encoding step encodes the moving image data decoded in the third decoding step in the first encoding method and outputs the encoded data.

Claim 98 relates to an image processing apparatus which executes an image processing method using the steps of Claim 93.

As will be appreciated, the claims have been amended to set forth that input moving image data is encoded in a first encoding method using both intra-picture coding and inter-picture coding, and moving image data including intra-picture coding image data and inter-picture coding image data is decoded. In this manner, an efficient and high performance image processing method and apparatus is provided.

The primary citation to Bonomi relates to a video editing and publishing system that includes a video capture unit, a video compression unit, and a video decompression

unit coupled to a host computer having video editing capabilities. As read by Applicants, the video editing and publishing system in Bonomi first compresses digital frame data using intraframe only, to allow video editing. The edited video data is decompressed, and then recompressed using interframe and intraframe compression algorithms. Bonomi discloses that with this process an intervening step of creating an analog master tape can be eliminated (column 2, lines 45 and 46).

In contrast to Applicants' claimed invention, however, Bonomi does not, inter alia, input moving image data encoded in a first encoding method using both intra-picture coding and inter-picture coding, and decode the moving image data that includes inter-picture coding image data and intra-picture coding image data. As discussed above, Bonomi first compresses data using intraframe only. Accordingly, it is submitted that Bonomi fails to anticipate or render obvious Applicants' invention, and thus reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 87-89, 92-95 and 98 under 35 U.S.C. §102 is respectfully requested.

The secondary citation to Nguyen relates to computer graphics that includes specific features of editing animation frames. Nguyen fails, however, to compensate for the deficiencies in Bonomi as discussed above with respect to Applicants' independent claims. Accordingly, without conceding the propriety of combining Bonomi and Nguyen in the manner proposed in the Office Action, such a combination still fails to teach or suggest Applicants' claimed invention. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103 is respectfully requested.

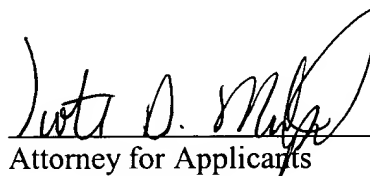
Accordingly, it is submitted Applicants' invention as set forth in independent Claims 87, 92, 93 and 98 is patentable over the cited art. In addition, dependent Claims 88-91

and 94-97 set forth additional features of Applicants' invention. Independent consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott D. Malpede", is written over a horizontal line.

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